

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for providing summary information about a hierarchically divided document structure, comprising:

adding a summary information field to each document within said hierarchical divided document that comprises relevant summary information; and

responsive to a saving operation of one of said each document, dynamically updating summary information within a summary information field of a higher level document, wherein said summary information includes information from said saved document.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether said saved document has updated a value within its summary information field prior to completing said dynamically updating step.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring which documents among all opened documents within said hierarchically divided document structure contains said summary information field; and

restricting said determining process to only those documents that contain a summary information field.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said hierarchical divided document structure contains a task document of a project having a plurality of subtasks each represented by an individual subordinate document, said method further comprising:

determining a point total and completed point total for all tasks affiliated with said project; and

6 dynamically calculating a percentage complete of said project utilizing said
7 point total and said completed point total.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising dynamically outputting said
2 percentage complete.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said project is subdivided into subproject
2 levels having associated tasks and said dynamically calculating step includes
3 calculating said percentage complete at each of said subproject levels.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said project and said subprojects are
2 represented by project documents linked via a computer application, wherein said
3 outputting step includes outputting said completed percentage in a summary display
4 of said project.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said computer application is a Lotus Notes
2 Project Tracking application and said calculating step includes programming a
3 LotusScript Agent to update a point total in each document within a document
4 hierarchy of said project and subprojects to reflect said percentage complete.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said determining step includes prompting a
2 user of said task document for an input of said completed point total.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said dynamically updating summary
2 information comprises:

3 querying at least one lower level document; and

4 calculating an updated summary information value at said higher level
5 document.

1 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein said dynamically updating summary
2 information comprises:

3 transmitting a changed summary information value to a higher level
4 document; and

5 calculating an updated summary information value at said higher level
6 document.

1 12. A computer-implemented system for providing summary information about a
2 hierarchically divided document, comprising:

3 means for adding a summary information field to each document within said
4 hierarchical divided document that comprises relevant summary information; and

5 means, responsive to a saving operation of one of said each document, for
6 dynamically updating summary information within a summary information field of a
7 higher level document, wherein said summary information includes information from
8 said saved document.

1 13. The system of Claim 12, further comprising means for determining whether
2 said saved document has updated a value within its summary information field prior
3 to completing said dynamically updating step.

1 14. The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

2 means for monitoring which documents among all documents within said
3 hierarchically divided document contains said summary information field; and

4 means for restricting said determining process to only those documents that
5 contain a summary information field.

1 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein said hierarchical divided document is a task
2 document of a project having a plurality of subtasks each represented by an individual
3 subordinate document, said method further comprising:

4 determining a point total and completed point total for all tasks affiliated with
5 said project; and

6 dynamically calculating a percentage complete of said project utilizing said
7 point total and said completed point total.

1 16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising dynamically outputting said
2 percentage complete.

1 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein said computer application is a Lotus Notes
2 Project Tracking application and said calculating step includes updating a point total
3 in each document within a document hierarchy of said project and subprojects to
4 reflect said percentage complete utilizing a LotusScript Agent.

1 18. The system of Claim 17, wherein said determining step includes prompting a
2 user of said task document for an input of said completed point total.

1 19. A computer program product comprising:
2 a computer readable medium; and
3 program code on said computer readable medium for providing summary
4 information about a hierarchically divided document, said program code including
5 program code for:
6 adding a summary information field to each document within said
7 hierarchical divided document that comprises relevant summary information;
8 and
9 responsive to a saving operation of one of said each document,
1 dynamically updating summary information within a summary information
1 field of a higher level document, wherein said summary information includes
information from said saved document.

20. The computer program product of Claim 19, further comprising program code
for determining whether said saved document has updated a value within its summary
information field prior to completing said dynamically updating step.

21. The computer program product of Claim 20, further comprising program code
for:

 monitoring which documents among all opened documents within said
4 hierarchically divided document contains said summary information field; and
5 restricting said determining process to only those documents that contain a
6 summary information field.

1 22. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said hierarchical divided
2 document is a task document of a project having a plurality of subtasks each
3 represented by an individual subordinate document, said program code further
4 comprising program code for:

5 determining a point total and completed point total for all tasks affiliated with
6 said project; and

7 dynamically calculating a percentage complete of said project utilizing said
8 point total and said completed point total.

1 23. The computer program product of Claim 22, further comprising program code
2 for dynamically outputting said percentage complete.

1 24. The computer program product of Claim 23, wherein said computer
2 application is a Lotus Notes Project Tracking application and said calculating
 program code includes code for updating a point total in each document within a
 document hierarchy of said project and subprojects to reflect said percentage
 complete utilizing a LotusScript Agent.

 25. The computer program code of Claim 24, wherein said determining program
 code includes code for prompting a user of said task document for an input of said
 completed point total.